

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

ROMELIA PEREZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE  
COMPANY,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C20-849RSM

ORDER DENYING STIPULATED  
MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' Stipulated Motion for Protective Order.  
Dkt. #34.

The Court finds that the proposed Protective Order does not conform to the requirement that its "protection from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles" as required by Local Rule 26(c)(2). Under the section entitled Confidential Material, the Court's model protective order instructs: "[t]he parties must include a list of specific documents such as 'company's customer list' or 'plaintiff's medical records;' do not list broad categories of documents such as 'sensitive business material.'" The parties have not followed these instructions and instead drafted an order stating that confidential material "may include but is not limited to... American Family's policies and procedures related to claims handling, course and

1 training materials, confidential and proprietary information.” Dkt. #34 at 2. The last four words  
2 are grammatically ambiguous and appear to serve as a catch-all.

3 Although some specific categories of documents are described, the Court finds that the  
4 parties have impermissibly left the door open to labeling a wide variety of documents as  
5 confidential. The parties submit no argument to justify this departure from the model protective  
6 order’s guidelines. Given all of the above, the Motion will be denied.

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8 Having reviewed the briefing, along with the remainder of the record, the Court hereby  
9 finds and ORDERS that the parties’ Stipulated Motion for Protective Order, Dkt. #34, is  
10 DENIED.

11 DATED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021.

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15 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ  
16 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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